



Communities Working Together

Mid-Region Council of Governments

2003 annual report



A Year of Opportunity . . .

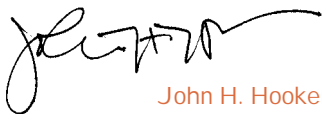
notes from the chair, past chair, and executive director

First, let me say thank you to my peers for electing me to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Mid-Region Council of Governments. It is an honor to lead this very important organization. There are many issues facing our region that we must address together.

And next, a very heartfelt thank you to Terese Ulivarri for serving as Chair for the past two years. I look forward to following her example of leading MRCOG in a positive direction. Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Lawrence Rael, MRCOG excels as *the* four-county regional organization. We assist our member communities, counties and pueblos in identifying and reaching local as well as regional goals. I am very proud of this Council of Governments and its staff that is second to none.

The upcoming year will be a challenging one for MRCOG. Regional issues we must address include water planning, regional security and cooperation, long range planning, air quality, and the formation of a regional transit district. In addition, MRCOG has taken on fiscal administration for the Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico.

Please take a moment to review our Annual Report and familiarize yourself with the accomplishments of the past year and the useful support and information the MRCOG has to offer you and your community.

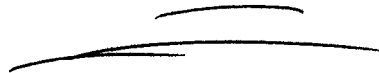


John H. Hooker
Chair, MRCOG Board of Directors

It has been my pleasure serving as your chair for the past two years. I am beaming with pride at the accomplishments we've achieved. Among those, I think that the increase in our meeting attendance and participation speaks volumes about the commitment of our members. Our board has grown to be recognized as a cohesive and respected body, and I am genuinely proud to have had the opportunity to lead such a great group of people.

Secondly, we have made great strides in our efforts to draw attention to some of the more critical matters facing our region. From regional transportation to water and air quality issues, I think our elected officials, Native American neighbors, and the citizens we serve, all know a bit more about the vital mission of MRCOG.

It would be hard to reflect upon the many successes of MRCOG without a heartfelt note of thanks to our Executive Director Lawrence Rael. His guidance and support through many of our important matters has been a blessing, and one for which I am truly grateful. I wish John the best of luck in the coming year. Thanks to everyone for their undying support, and a great two years.



A. Terese Ulivarri
Past Chair, MRCOG Board of Directors

As we review the accomplishments of MRCOG during the past year, we are pleased to see the progress in bringing a regional orientation to state and local policy decisions. At all levels, elected officials recognize that many of our most pressing concerns cross community boundaries and issues such as economic development, water resource management, homeland security, transportation, and air quality, demand regional cooperation and communication. We commend Governor Richardson and the 2003 Legislature for their support of the Regional Transit District Act, and look forward to seeing transit become a model for intergovernmental cooperation in this part of New Mexico.

Although each community in the MRCOG region has its unique identity, there are many challenges that are common to all. MRCOG will continue to serve as a forum for addressing local issues thorough communication and collaboration among our member governments. We look forward to the leadership of Mayor Hooker, and to the challenges of the coming year.



Lawrence Rael
Executive Director



Lawrence Rael
Executive Director

Staff

David Abrams, Information Services Manager
Christian Ball, Traffic Counting Technician
Chris Blewett, Director Transportation and Planning Services
Janice Borchardt, Accounting Manager
Sheila ter Bruggen, Transportation Planner
Shohreh Day, GIS/Systems Analyst
Carol Earp, GIS Analyst/Cartographer
Randall Falkner, Regional Planner
Carol Foster, Research Analyst
Nicole Giddings, Receptionist
Maggie Hart, Special Projects Manager
Amelia Handrich, Traffic Counting Aide
Berry Ives, Transportation Planner
Linda Jackson, Accountant

James Kloeppe, Workforce Administrator
Mary Martinez, Traffic Counting Aide
Seferino R. Martinez, Traffic Counting Aide
Rodolfo Monge-Oviedo, Transportation Planner
Kendra Montanari, Transportation Planner
Robert Navarrete, Traffic Counting Aide
Hope Nealson, Secretary
Jospeh Quintana, Regional Planning Manager
Jerilynn Sans, Secretary
Mark Sprick, Transportation Planner
Barbara Thomas, Secretary
Loretta Tollefson, Transportation Program Manager
Michael Trujillo, Director Administrative Services
Wendy Vigil, Human Resource/Office Manager
Brad Villanueva, Information Systems Specialist
Joseph Wendt, Transportation Planner

Cover photos, counterclockwise: the new Isotopes Park baseball stadium in Albuquerque; the Jemez Springs Bath House, an historic facility now being operated by the Village of Jemez Springs; cattle ranching in Torrance County; and, Casa San Ysidro in the Village of Corrales, a reconstructed 18th century New Mexico home housing a collection of folk art, textiles and furniture and a part of the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History.

New Successes . . .

paving the way for the future

MRCOG Board Officers

John H. Hooker, Chair

A. Terese Ullivarri, Vice Chair



MRCOG Board Chair John Hooker, Mayor of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, and Vice Chair Terese Ullivarri, Councilor, City of Belen, present Commissioner William Sapien of Sandoval County with a Regional Excellence Award at the 2002 awards dinner.

MRCOG Priorities Successful in the 2003 Legislative Session

MRCOG was pleased to see the 2003 Legislature act on many of the issues identified as our legislative priorities. Several of our most important objectives were passed and signed by the Governor including legislation enabling Regional Transit Districts (see page 4); funding for the “In-Plant Training” Program; increased State financial assistance for local governments; and reimbursement to local governments for detention costs of state prisoners.

Other MRCOG initiatives, such as greater utilization of Planning and Development Districts as sub-state areas for state programs, and restructuring of the State’s tax code, are being considered by the Governor’s office and the Blue Ribbon Tax Commission for future implementation.

The Legislature incorporated many of our water proposals into bills that address the current water crisis by focusing on water conservation and giving water rights holders more flexibility in how their water can be used. Proposals to allow “water banking” and short-term water transfers were approved. In addition, a proposal to dedicate at least 10% of all severance tax bonding capacity to water projects in New Mexico was also approved. Such projects can include the storage, conveyance or delivery of water to end-users; the implementation of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973; the restoration of watersheds; or flood prevention.

Economic Development

MRCOG is pleased that the national Council on Competitiveness has chosen the MRCOG region as one of six districts in the United States to conduct a “Competitiveness Initiative” – a comprehensive study of the region’s economic development strengths and weaknesses, and a forum for developing future economic development initiatives. The study will culminate in a regional summit scheduled for late September 2003. The initiative will help our region capitalize on its assets and make strategic decisions to pave the way for innovation-driven economic growth.

This year, MRCOG assisted with the preparation of two grant applications that were funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The MRCOG region is an Economic Development District designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA. A \$1.5 million grant was awarded for telecommunications and drainage improvements at Double Eagle II Airport and a second grant will construct a business incubator in the South Valley of Bernalillo County.



Dr. David A. Sampson (right), U.S. Commerce Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, Economic Development Administration (EDA), presents Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez and Congresswoman Heather Wilson a check for \$1.5 million for infrastructure improvements to the City’s Double Eagle II Airport.

New Challenges . . .

promoting regional cooperation



New regional challenges have been embraced by the MRCOG Board. Board members Tim Cummins, Bernalillo County, Tim Eichenberg, AMAFCA, and Jim Owen, Rio Rancho, are shown above (left to right) along with Steven Anaya, Moriarty, Charles Aguilar, Bernalillo, and Gary Kanin, Corrales at left (left to right).

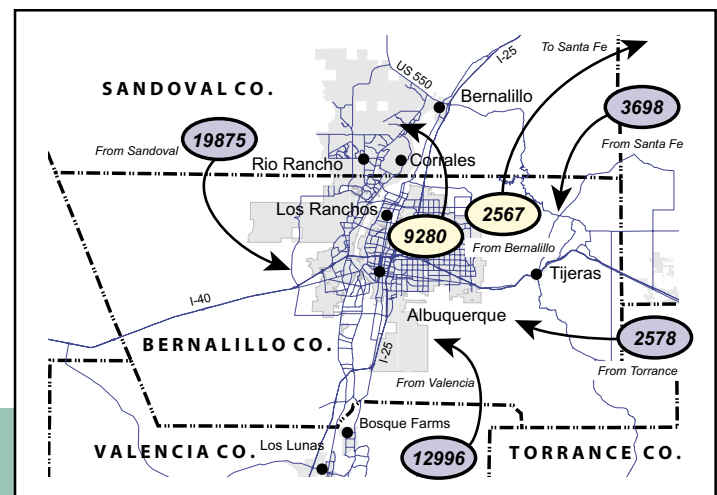
Regional Transit

For many years, the member governments of MRCOG have recognized that there is an increasing demand for public transportation services that operate between the communities in this area. For that reason, the MRCOG Board voted to make the creation of Regional Transit Districts (RTDs) one of our top legislative initiatives for the 2003 session. In March, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, the Regional Transit District Act. MRCOG is now working to put the pieces into place to create a RTD in this region.

A RTD in the Middle Rio Grande region offers regional transit planning through a focused, coordinated forum, and addresses the needs of commuters and those who travel between communities to access goods and services. A RTD can provide the dedicated local funding required to operate a reliable transit system and leverage federal grants, and will allow economy of scale by providing a unified transit system in a region where several currently operate.

MRCOG's leadership in the RTD process will draw on our strengths as an organization. One of our primary responsibilities as a State Planning and Development District is to facilitate intergovernmental cooperation on regional issues such as transportation, and we offer a neutral forum for involving local elected officials in the planning and operation of the RTD. In addition, the process will take advantage of MRCOG's expertise in providing transportation and planning services.

The RTD Act provides a framework for local governments to cooperate on regional transit projects. MRCOG will provide the staff and technical support needed to make reliable, cost-effective, customer-oriented transit a reality in this region.



The map above shows commuting patterns into (blue) and out of (yellow) Bernalillo County where 88% of the region's jobs are located. 2000 Census data shows over 39,000 workers commute each day from Sandoval, Santa Fe, Torrance and Valencia Counties. Existing track from Belen (left) to Bernalillo could provide infrastructure for a regional commuter rail line. The Village of Los Lunas (below) operates an on-demand transit system providing service within Valencia County and into the Albuquerque area.



Workforce Investment

MRCOG has been selected to serve as the Administrative Entity/Fiscal Agent for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program effective July 1, 2003. The Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico (the Local Workforce Board) selected MRCOG to administer this Federal program in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties. One-Stop Service Centers are operational in each county and provide a full range of services to both job seekers and area employers.

The WIA program is designed to increase employment opportunities, employment retention, and earnings, as well as to increase occupational skills attainment. As a result, this will improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the State of New Mexico. During the last program year, approximately 11,000 participants were served in the Central Area through the WIA program.



Clients listen intently during a Job Search Workshop offered by the Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico (above).



Fire and emergency medical services are at the core of Homeland Security planning. Los Ranchos (left) acquired a new fire truck in 2003. The Neil Mertz Judicial Complex in Estancia (below) serves Torrance County and houses District and Magistrate Court operations.



Homeland Security

MRCOG may soon play an important role integrating local elected officials into the planning process for homeland security initiatives in our region. We will be working with the New Mexico Office of Homeland Security to use the existing COG structure to assist local governments in developing plans for each community, and to ensure that the elected officials are involved in the planning process.

The Office of Homeland Security recognizes that many of its initiatives must be developed on a regional basis and that local elected officials must be an integral, ongoing part of the planning and implementation process. MRCOG has the expertise and resources needed to prepare integrated emergency plans on a regional level. Our existing role in

facilitating intergovernmental cooperation on comparable regional issues offers a mechanism for involving local elected officials in the planning and implementation of Homeland Security strategies. In addition, we maintain the transportation, land use, and population databases to be used in developing emergency preparedness and response plans.

Across the United States, the implementation of national Homeland Security initiatives will require a great deal of communication and cooperation across community boundaries by elected officials, police and fire officials, healthcare providers, and many other institutions and individuals that are devoted to public safety. MRCOG is pleased to commit our resources and strengths to furthering that effort.

City/County Unification

The consolidation of the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County into a single, unified government could change the dynamics of governance in the region.

The New Mexico Constitution now enables Albuquerque and Bernalillo County residents to adopt a charter for a unified local government. The Unification Charter Commission is preparing a document establishing the structure for the new government. This charter will be submitted to the voters of Bernalillo County for their approval or rejection on November 4, 2003. If approved, the process of unifying the two governments will proceed. If rejected, another Charter Commission must be appointed and a new charter drafted and submitted to voters within 12 months.

MRCOG is prepared to ensure the continuation of regional cooperation and the coordination of governments during the transition to a unified government should voters approve the proposed charter.

Water Planning and Management . . .

tackling critical issues

Regional Water Planning

The preservation and management of water resources is a growing concern in this region due to below normal rainfall in the past several years. There is now a sense of urgency to find a balance between the available water supply and the consumptive use of water.

Regional water plans provide guidance to local governments in implementing water management programs with common goals and cooperative results to preserve a region's water supply for future generations. These plans are also intended to be integrated into the State Water Plan.

MRCOG encompasses two regional water planning areas: the Estancia Basin and the Middle Rio Grande. The Estancia Basin regional water plan has been completed. MRCOG, along with its Water Resources Board and the Water Assembly (a nonprofit volunteer organization), have established a partnership to develop, adopt, and implement an effective water plan for the Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Region composed of Sandoval, Bernalillo, and Valencia counties.

[Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan](#)

By means of an open, inclusive and participatory process of extensive public involvement by local governments as well as a wide array of stakeholder interests, the Water Resources Board and Water Assembly partnership is developing the regional water plan. Funding for contract consultants for the program is being provided by the Interstate Stream Commission, and funding for MRCOG staff support is being provided by MRCOG member local governments. Modeling support from Sandia Laboratories and the UNM/

Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority's project on the North Pino Arroyo (right) will improve the quality of stormwater runoff within its jurisdiction. Facilities under construction include a debris removal structure and a ponding area which will intercept large material and organic matter detrimental to water quality in the Rio Grande. Hector Gonzales, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board Member (MRGCD) and MRCOG Board Member, and Subhas Shah, MRGCD Chief Executive Engineer/CEO (below, left to right), survey the Barr Ditch, an irrigation facility in the South Valley.



Utton Transboundary Center is being utilized for plan development. Additional funds and substantial volunteer expertise and support are being supplied by the Water Assembly.

At this time, an analysis of water management alternative actions has been completed. Future scenarios have been developed depicting various combinations of alternative actions which best meet the water use goals of the plan. Prior to completion, a composite or preferred scenario will be presented as the basis for the Middle Rio Grande regional water plan. The plan is scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

[Conserving Resources](#)

Managing water in times of drought is a major regional issue driving the planning process. MRCOG will assist local governments in implementing the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the regional water plans. One of the implementation strategies already underway is the development and adoption of local government water conservation programs and drought emergency contingency plans.

[Balancing Needs](#)

Another complex regional issue affects planning for the demands of people as well as the needs of the natural environment. Compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act will affect water resources throughout the Middle Rio Grande valley. For example, the City of Albuquerque is taking the lead in developing a long-range recovery program for endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande. The current focus is on the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher which have an established habitat in the Middle Rio Grande area within and along the river.

Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board

Ted Asbury, Chair
A. Terese Ulivarri, Vice Chair

GIS-Based Tool Developed to Model Transportation Accessibility

MRCOG has implemented a new, state-of-the-art transportation analytical model called TRAM (Transportation Accessibility Model). This tool, based on ArcView geographic information system (GIS) software, is capable of evaluating the levels of mobility and accessibility of current and future transportation systems.

Most travel related models operate on simple, uniform algorithms and aggregated “representations” of a transportation system, but TRAM uses a network that contains all streets, as well as sidewalks, bike lanes, trails and actual routes and schedules of the public transportation system. It includes over 85,000 links, and can be modified to reflect even more detail for specific applications (such as ADA compliant sidewalks).



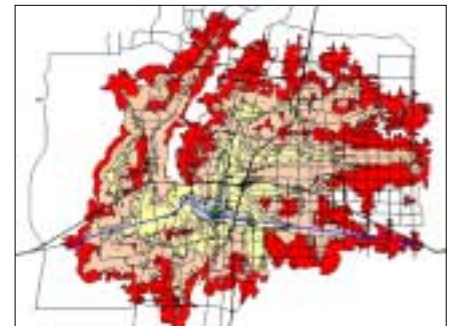
Critical bike path linkages such as this drain crossing in Albuquerque's North Valley (above) are included in the comprehensive network for TRAM. A path is shown in red in an example from the model application (right).

The model allows MRCOG and its member agencies to address and evaluate a number of transportation issues by determining:

- True levels of walk access to transit using actual walking distances on sidewalks to actual bus stop locations
- The level of accessibility of specific locations (such as community centers, schools, employment centers, and shopping centers) via different, or even combined modes of transportation
- Accessibility and/or proximity to specific network facility types (i.e. bicycle trail/lanes or bus stops) throughout the region
- The “connectivity” of pedestrian and bike systems
- Priorities of proposed improvements to the transportation system from a market-based perspective
- Community profiles based on census data regarding the above mentioned issues.

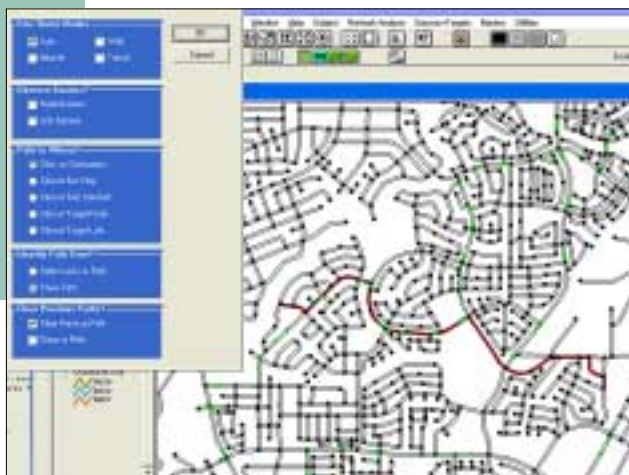
The model generates “paths” on the network from one or more user-specified origin(s) to one or more user-specified destination(s). The paths are generated using true distances instead of the “airline miles” that are used by less sophisticated applications.

The network on which these paths are built contains detailed information for each segment including number of lanes, type of facility, bus route information, the locations of bus stops, and, speeds for each mode. In addition, the model provides the flexibility to code local impediments to pedestrian or bike mobility (for example, the inability to cross certain streets due to high traffic volumes).



Once the paths are built the model can perform an accessibility analysis (by a single mode or combination of modes) based on a user-selected parameter such as distance or time. Travel-time contours based on user specified intervals are then produced (see figure above). These contours can be overlaid on census data, generating a market profile describing the demographic characteristics of the area covered by each time interval.

MRCOG intends to deploy the TRAM model in a number of areas including the evaluation of transportation alternatives, regional strategies, transit market analysis, environmental justice issues, and transportation improvement program projects.



New Plans . . .

providing guidance for the future

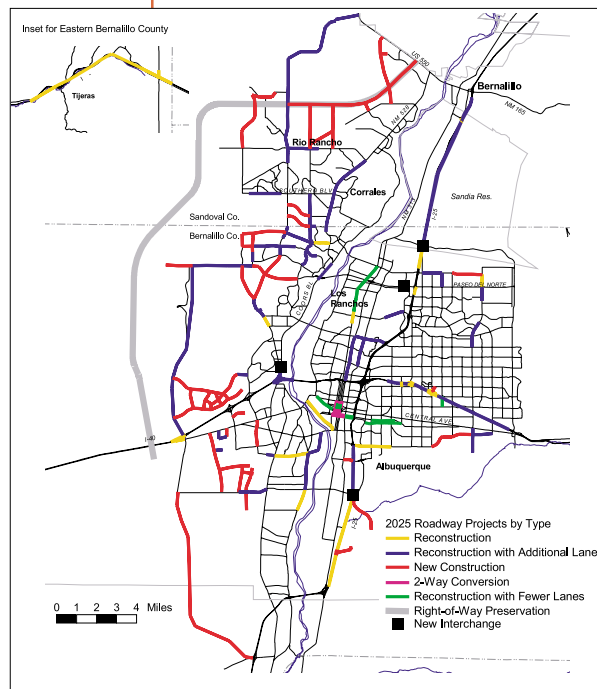
Long Range Transportation Planning Undertaken with Analysis, Public Involvement and Vision



The one-way to two-way conversion of streets in downtown Albuquerque enhanced pedestrian safety and created additional on-street parking (left). Bernalillo County completed Phase I of the Isleta Improvement Project (bottom left). The Alvarado Transportation Center reflects the grandeur of yesteryear for incoming rail passengers (below).



Transportation projects planned to the year 2025 are shown on the map (right) by project type. New construction projects correspond with areas of expected growth over the next two decades, while reconstruction projects dominate in the established sections of the urban area.



The **2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** has been completed and will guide transportation planning and project development for the next three years in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area. As the metropolitan planning organization for the area, MRCOG is responsible for developing a new transportation plan every three years which must project at least 20 years into the future. During the MTP development process, the urban area transportation system was evaluated in terms of where we are now, where and how we're likely to grow as an urban area, and what our transportation system should look like in the future, given our resources.

The 2025 MTP identifies the transportation projects that are expected to be built in the urban area between now and 2025, given the revenues we can reasonably expect at the Federal, State and local levels. Highlights of the 2025 MTP include:

- **Projects key to economic development initiatives in the region** including: I-40/Paseo Del Volcan interchange reconstruction and additional lanes on the Double Eagle Access Road; Gibson Boulevard extension; Louisiana/I-40 interchange reconstruction; University Boulevard extension; Sunport Boulevard extension; reconstruction of the Coors/I-40 interchange; reconstruction of Isleta Boulevard; and, reconstruction of North 4th Street.
- **133 additional miles in bicycle lanes** and double the number of miles of bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails
- **Increased funds for intelligent transportation system projects**
- **Extended transit service** on Unser to McMahon, new service to Mesa del Sol, and more frequent trips on San Mateo, Isleta, 4th Street and Louisiana at Uptown
- **Reconstruction of much of Interstate 25 and Interstate 40**
- **Additional lanes on I-25** between Tramway and the Bernalillo interchange and between Rio Bravo and Gibson.

The MTP includes a complete listing of all roadway, bikeway and transit projects as well as other transportation related programs that are anticipated to be implemented between now and 2025. The map at left shows roadway projects by type included in the 2025 MTP.

Analysis and Collaboration

Anchor Transportation Planning at MRCOG

The MRCOG transportation planning process follows a three-step process flow: technical work, collaborative environment, and development and use of the planning products.

Technical Work

The process begins with a thorough data collection process to obtain a clear picture of where we are now. It continues with a comparison to data collected in the past, and with analysis and use of this data for making predictions about future transportation events and needs. The continued refinement of MRCOG's transportation analysis tools (see page 7) is critical to this technical environment.

Collaborative Environment

The data gathered and analyzed during the technical process is key to the decisions that are arrived at through the collaborative environment. The boards, committees and citizens that participate in the collaborative decision-making process use the information in discussing transportation issues, identifying alternatives and reaching decisions regarding specific transportation projects to fund within given periods of time. The Metropolitan Transportation Board serves as the final decision-making step for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (AMPA). The Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Technical Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the New Mexico Department of Transportation for input to the state-wide transportation planning process.

Development and Use of Planning Products

The planning products that result from the collaborative process serve as the mechanism for documenting the process and the decisions that result from it. They also provide the tool for guiding future transportation decisions. Products range from traffic flow maps for the region to the *Regional Long Range Transportation Plan* and the *2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* to the Transportation Improvement Programs for the rural and urban planning areas.



The Edgewood interchange on I-40 and NM 344 is being reconstructed to replace a deficient structure and increase traffic handling capability.

Regional Transportation Plan Completed in 2003

MRCOG completed the rural component of transportation planning with publication of the ***Regional Long Range Transportation Plan*** in early 2003. This Plan presents goals, objectives, and strategies that are intended to improve the movement of people and goods throughout the non-urban RPO area. Strategic Action Recommendations are aimed at maintaining and improving the existing regional highway network, ensuring the safety of all users, preserving the environment, expanding transportation alternatives, and improving the quality of life of citizens living in the RPO region. These recommendations are proposed for implementation in short, medium, and long range time frames over the next two decades.

The Regional Plan also includes an analysis of regional data that illustrates development patterns, population, and transportation systems. Population and employment forecasts distinguish those areas that will grow and develop in the RPO region over the next twenty years, and will consequently place more demands on the existing highway system. A systems inventory in the Plan identifies existing roads and highways, scenic byways, dangerous bridges and drainage structures, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, proposed multi-modal facilities, and public transportation, rail, and aviation services.

Did you know?

MRCOG is the designated Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for transportation planning in the non-metropolitan area of the MRCOG region. The RPO area includes rural Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties, and the Edgewood area of southern Santa Fe County.

Metropolitan Transportation Board

Ronald Brown, Chair
Tim Cummins, Vice Chair

Regional Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

Ruben Chavez, Chair
Carla Clayton, Vice Chair

Ongoing Efforts . . .

providing service to the region

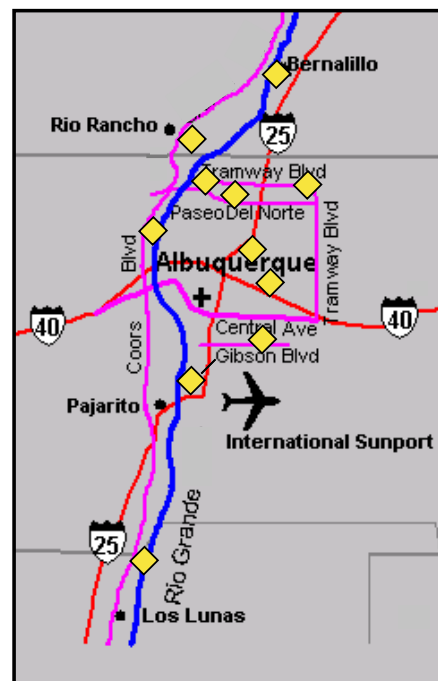
Regional Air Quality

The quality of the air around us is a critical measure of our region's well-being. While carbon monoxide has been a pollutant of concern in the past for people living and working in Albuquerque, the increase in ground-level ozone is expected to have a negative impact throughout a much larger portion of the Middle Rio Grande region. Carbon monoxide levels are under control and dropping. However, ground-level ozone levels continue to increase.

Air quality monitors are scattered throughout the Rio Grande Valley (see map). These monitors show that ozone is rising steadily and is likely to be above the Federal Ambient Air Quality Standard in a few years. Ozone is a summer-time pollutant because it is created by a chemical reaction between oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic

compounds when heat and light are present. Breathing ozone can irritate lung airways and cause inflammations similar to sunburn. Even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can trigger health problems ranging from asthma attacks to increased susceptibility to pneumonia and bronchitis.

Besides the negative health impacts, increased ozone levels in the Rio Grande Valley could mean onerous Federal sanctions to reduce pollution levels. Major sources of ozone include motor vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents. These are sources that can be controlled. MRCOG is committed to working with local jurisdictions to identify and help implement ways to keep ground-level ozone at healthy levels.



Air quality monitors measuring ground-level ozone (shown in yellow) are scattered throughout the region.

2002 Population Estimates by County and Region

Bernalillo County	578,341
Sandoval County	95,749
Torrance County	16,715
Valencia County	67,707
Southern Santa Fe County	9,569
MRCOG Region Total	768,081

Source: MRCOG.

Data and Information Services

Current socioeconomic and forecast data drives local and regional economic development as well as transportation and comprehensive planning.

MRCOG provides socioeconomic estimation and forecasting, geographic information system (GIS), and information technology services to meet the data needs of our local governments. Important data processed or developed this year includes 2000 Census sample data and a new base case socioeconomic forecast to 2025 for the region.

Staff operates two major models: The Land Use Analysis Model (LAM) which distributes future land use and the Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) Policy Insight Model which measures the economic impact of business relocation or local policy decisions.

The computing environment at MRCOG is continually assessed and enhanced to improve system performance. In addition, applications development provides planners with new data and analytical tools to support their work.

Comprehensive Planning Shapes Our Communities and Our Region

Local governments are the primary constituents of MRCOG. The region includes a diversity of large and small governmental organizations with common problems and sometimes competing development issues. MRCOG is dedicated to the improvement of planning capabilities for all local governments and maintains a professional staff to assist member governments in their planning and community development efforts.

Comprehensive plans provide a policy-level framework for community development programs, projects, and services. The adoption or revision of local comprehensive plans is currently a high priority region-wide. With funding assistance offered through the New Mexico Local Government Division, many municipalities and counties are reassessing long range plans for their communities.

Long range comprehensive plans have been developed over the past year by MRCOG staff for the municipalities of Belen and Moriarty, and for Torrance County. Efforts are also underway to prepare comprehensive plans for the Town of Mountainair and the Villages of Bosque Farms and Cuba.



Historic Route 66 is the commercial heart of Moriarty (left). Belen is experiencing housing growth on the mesa west of the city center (right).

Regulatory reform is another major activity of local governments seeking to implement the plans and policies of the governing body. MRCOG staff provides technical assistance by researching and drafting ordinances and administrative forms used in land use management.

An important issue in our urbanizing area is the need for intergovernmental coordination among the many agencies active within the MRCOG region.

MRCOG staff is becoming increasingly involved in issues of jurisdiction, resource management, development control, and overlapping projects and programs. As a regional planning agency, MRCOG is in a position to ensure coordination, enable joint resolution of problems, and provide a forum for dispute resolution.

Do you need population data? Traffic flow information? An agenda for the next MRCOG meeting? The functional classification of a roadway? All this and more can be found at MRCOG's new website: www.mrcog-nm.gov. We invite you to visit the site and discover something new about your region.

Prompted by our **name change** last year, MRCOG has redesigned and rebuilt its website. The site is easy to navigate and contains new and expanded information and links. The Regional Profile includes detailed statistics on population, race, housing, employment, school enrollments, and land use. Community Profiles feature each local government or MRCOG member with links provided to the governments' own website. Pertinent information on MRCOG and our programs, agendas for MRCOG meetings, popular documents and maps, and even datasets such as census data by county, are available to view or download. An Interactive Maps Page allows users to query GIS data and print maps of user-defined themes and areas of interest.

Visit Us On The Web

(and learn something new!)

www.mrcog-nm.gov

MRCOG Board of Directors

City of Albuquerque

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*Tina Cummins, Councilor
*Jay Czar, Chief Administrative Officer
Miguel Gomez, Councilor
Sally Mayer, Councilor
Hess Yntema, Councilor

Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority

*Tim Eichenberg, Board Member

Albuquerque Public Schools

*Robert Lucero, Board Member

City of Belen

Ronnie Torres, Mayor
*A. Terese Ulivarri, Councilor,
Vice Chair, MRCOG Board of Directors

Town of Bernalillo

*Charles Aguilar, Mayor

Bernalillo County

*Alan Armijo, Commissioner
E. Tim Cummins, Commissioner
Juan Vigil, County Manager

Village of Bosque Farms

Roger Baldwin, Mayor
Ginger Eldridge, Councilor

Village of Corrales

Gary Kanin, Mayor

Village of Cuba

Ethel Maharg, Mayor

Town of Edgewood

Howard Calkins, Mayor
Paul Hoffman, Councilman

Village of Encino

Town of Estancia

Martin Hibbs, Mayor
Chris Pohl, County Assessor

Village of Jemez Springs

John Garcia, Mayor
Wanona Maestas, Trustee

Village of Los Lunas

Louis F. Huning, Mayor
Art Mondragon, Director, Community
Development

Los Lunas Public Schools

William C. Moffatt,
Deputy Superintendent

Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque

*John H. Hooker, Mayor
Chair, MRCOG Board of Directors
Donald Lopez, Trustee

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

*Hector Gonzales, Board Member

City of Moriarty

Adan Encinias, Mayor
*M. Steven Anaya, Councilor

Town of Mountainair

Lorraine Wardell, Mayor
Severo Sisneros, Representative

City of Rio Rancho

*Jim Owen, Mayor

Rio Rancho Public Schools

Lisa Cour, Board Member

Sandoval County

*Daymon Ely, Commissioner
Jack Thomas, Commissioner

Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority

Donald Rudy, Board Member

Village of Tijeras

Gloria Chavez, Mayor
Estefanie Muller, Clerk

Torrance County

*Bob Ayre, County Manager

Valencia County

*Mary Andersen, Commissioner

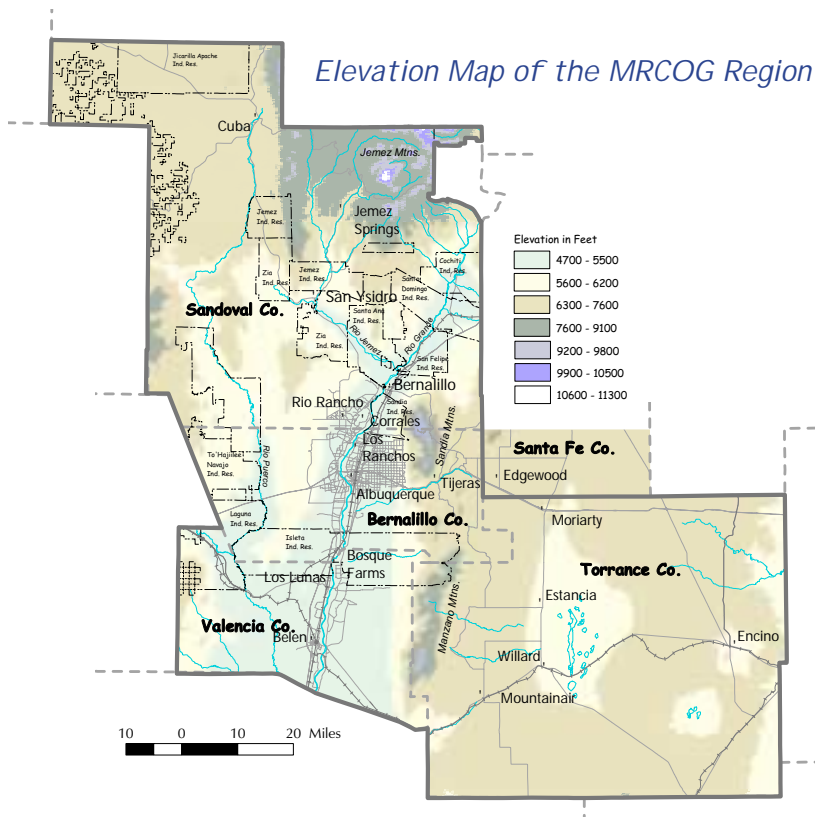
Village of Willard

*Executive Board

Others who served in 2002-03:

Ron Abousleman, Town of Bernalillo
John Chaney, Southern Sandoval County
Flood Control Authority
Gary Daves, Valencia County
Berna Facio, Albuquerque Public Schools
Eric Griego, City of Albuquerque
S.T. Frank Pando, Valencia County
Tom Rutherford, Bernalillo County
Brad Winter, City of Albuquerque

Elevation Map of the MRCOG Region



Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico

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